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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal will in future be published fortnightly on the 1st and 15th of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

A Musical Student, Totness. Please favor us with your address.

C.H. would find the objections to inverting vocal parts fully explained in Cherubini's "Treatise on Counterpoint and Fugue," price 6s. 6d.

A Lover of the Organ. You are referred to the early prefaces of the Musical Times; where the objects of the music introduced into its pages are set forth. Before the end of this month, we expect to publish another periodical, especially dedicated to meet the wants you mention.

L. G. will see we have extracted the account of the Triumphs of Oriana, which will answer his query. Mr. Oliphant does not believe in Sir John's statement; but supposes the name and idea to have been invented solely to satisfy "Elizabeth's inordinate vanity." There is a cheap copy of the complete "Oriana" in separate parts, edited by Mr. Wm. Shore, besides the rest of the collection in the Glee Hive.

Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

CAMBERWELL CHORAL SOCIETY.—Mozart's *Requiem* was sung at the concert at Camberwell Hall, on the evening of the 12th ult., by the members of this society, conducted by Herr Pauer, who accompanied the voices on the pianoforte. The singing was most creditable to the ladies and gentlemen amateurs who took part in it; what was principally to be desired, to give the music its true effect, was a slower tempo in some of the movements. The most gratifying feature of the concert was the performance of Beethoven's Sonata appassionata in F minor, Op. 57, on the pianoforte, by Herr Klindworth, a pupil of Liszt. It is with great pleasure that we observe in the beautiful touch, the fine expression, and accurate reading of this young artist, promise of something better in the pianoforte playing of the future than in anything we have for a long time heard from abroad. The parade of execution and of technical skill has too long prevailed over the love of music, and every new performance is in general but a fresh exhibition of mechanism. It is not so, however, with Herr Klindworth. The composition he has to perform is first and chief in his thoughts; and it is impossible to hear this symphony-sonata, arduous as it is, and of colossal proportions, executed with more perfect fidelity to the author. The impassioned Allegro, the solemn Adagio in D flat, recalling in the accents of its melody that of the Symphony in C minor, and the wild impetuous finale, with its volcanic eruptions of sound, were executed in their several styles with such expression and effect, that the enthusiasm of the hearers was excited. We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of those who are interested in fine pianoforte playing, in the works of Beethoven, more especially, to the remarkable merit of this young and deserving artist.—E. H. (*From a Contributor.*)

EASTERN HARMONIC SOCIETY, POPLAR.—The members presented the proceeds of their concert on the 20th of December (Handel's *Messiah*), to their conductor, Mr. Robinson, on his recovery from a long illness.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The examination for the King's Scholarships, vacant at this time of the year, has just taken place. The board of examiners consisted of Mr. Cipriani Potter, chairman; Mr. Goss, Mr. Lucas, Mr. H. Blagrove, Mr. Lovell Phillips, Mr. Dorrell, and Mr. Robert Barnett. The number of candidates examined was sixteen; ten young gentlemen, and six young ladies. The following were elected scholars:—Miss Cazalay and Master Izaak. Specially commended:—Miss Southgate and Mr. Cheshire. Highly commended:—Misses Lazarus and Kilpac; Messrs. Ibbotsen, Harrison, Adlington, Masom, Henniker, and Wheeldon.

DUMFRIES.—We hear of concerts in aid of the Patriotic Fund, in various quarters. A very successful one took place in this town on the 6th of December; and affords a fair sample of the revived spirit for music in the vicinity.

LAMBETH.—The children of Trinity Church Schools were entertained by a Phantasmagorical exhibition, on the 19th of December. They sang, during the evening, "Good King Wenceslas" (Neale and Helmore's "Carols"); "Now pray we for our country" (Eliza Flower); the National Anthem, and several other pieces,—assisted by Mr. Cooke's upper singing class.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. C. J. Hargitt gave a classical instrumental concert, assisted by Mr. H. Cooper and Mr. Haussmann. The *Edinburgh Advertiser* speaks very highly of the way in which Mendelssohn's Sonata in B flat (Op. 45.) was rendered by Messrs. Hargitt and Haussmann. The entertainment was altogether nicely got up; the programme, containing a choice selection of pieces, presenting an agreeable variety, without proving too lengthy—all which infused more genial warmth into the auditory than is generally to be met with at morning performances.

DUNFERMLINE.—The Harmonists' Society held their annual concert on the 8th of December, under the conduct of Mr. Locke.

LIVERPOOL.—The Apollo Glee Club (one of the oldest local Universal Societies) gave their first dress concert for the season on the 6th of December; Mr. George Holden, Conductor.

HALIFAX.—Mr. W. Jackson, composer of the *Deliverance of Israel, Isaiah, &c.*, delivered a lecture on "The Music of Handel," in the Woodside school-room, Halifax. Illustrations were given by Mr. Carter and Miss Tankard, as solo singers, and by a fine chorus party of nearly a hundred persons, aided by the organ used in the school.

BURY.—The 12th Mass of Mozart, with a miscellaneous selection, brought together an unusually large audience on the 11th of December, at the Athenæum; conductor, Mr. W. D. Banks.

THE SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY gave their usual Christmas performances of Handel's master-piece, the *Messiah*, on the 15th and 22nd of December; the demand for tickets, on both occasions, far exceeding the capacity of the hall. Madame Clara Novello's rendering of the superb soprano songs in this Oratorio, merits distinct mention. The varied and appropriate style which she throws into each; her simple delivery of the angelic message in the Recitatives; her jubilant declamation in "Rejoice greatly;" her tender and earnest invocation in "Come unto him;" her pure intonation in "How beautiful are the feet;" and her sentiment of sublime faith and trust in "I know that my Redeemer liveth; prove her close study of the author, and her marvellous gift in conveying her own conceptions of his meaning to her audience.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Gough commenced his third series of Concerts for the People, on Thursday, the 11th of December; on which occasion Mr. Farquharson Smith formed the chief vocal attraction.

WINSLOW.—A selection from Handel's works was given in aid of the Bucks Infirmary, on the 7th of December. During the evening, a verse anthem, by Mr. Wm. Hadway, the conductor, was introduced; and met with marked approval.

TONIC SOL-FA SYSTEM.—The favorers of this, and other royal-roads to learning, will do well to read the Note in Dr. Marx's "General Musical Instruction," at page 11; which we here quote from:—

"It is very desirable that every one who takes an interest in music should thoroughly comprehend the advantages of our system of notation (which will be still more manifest when we show in the first section of the second division, its singular aptitude for the exemplification of rythmical proportions) since from time to time, up to the present moment, schemes for new systems, often of the most extraordinary description, have been made public. Such propositions, to abandon a system whose origin recedes unknown, into tens of centuries, coeval with all art, and improved and illustrated by all art-loving nations; such propositions can be entertained only where the reasonableness, necessity, and power of historical development are forgotten. These undertakings can indeed have no influence on the steadfastness and prosperity of art; but they may disturb and mislead the inexperienced, and perhaps numerous bodies of students for a time, and even detach them from high musical education.

"That the vivid self descriptiveness of our notation is entirely absent from these new systems, and that they only recite a number of notes without exhibiting their rhythmic proportions, is abundantly manifest. Moreover, the supporters of these systems do not attribute to them an equal rank with our notation. They are to be used for a time only, to spare the learning of the notation until further advancement; but the notation must be learned at last, and therefore two systems instead of one only."

OXFORD.—The performance of the Reverend Sir Frederick Ouseley, Bart.'s oratorio, the *Martyrdom of St. Polycarp*, as an exercise, on his taking the degree of Doctor in Music, may be considered as a kind of era in the musical annals of the University, considering the intrinsic merits of the oratorio itself, and the widely-diffused feeling of interest which the occasion seemed to have excited amongst all grades of the academical body, both resident and non-resident. Amongst musicians, we may also esteem it an honor that a man of rank, and a scholar, should seek the distinctions especially belonging to music. Of the composition itself, the *Oxford Chronicle* says:—"The subject of the oratorio is very well chosen, and gracefully appropriate to the scene and the occasion of its first performance in public—perhaps also suitable in some degree to the spirit of the times. It commemorates the triumph of an all-abiding faith, and unflinching endurance in martyrdom of an early Christian bishop. The work as a whole, breathes a spirit of exulting faith, chastened to sadness amid the storms of persecution. The general design, equally with the scope and character of particular passages, show all the freshness and vigour which belong to masterly conception in art; the quality of dramatic power is strikingly exhibited throughout; and the composer has availed himself very skilfully of the force of contrast, usually so strong an element of success in works of this kind, by relieving bold sweeping bursts of harmony, and passages thrillingly suggestive of rage, fear, and suspense, with others marked by extreme tenderness of expression. The performance began at a signal from the Vice-Chancellor, who occupied a position near Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley, Bart., and Dr. Corfe, the conductor; the last named being attired in his robes as a Doctor in Music. Mr. Blagrove and Mr. Reinagle were associated as leaders on the occasion. The principal vocal performers were, Mr. Weiss, of London, as Polycarp; Mr. Cumming, of London, as Proconsul; Miss Dolby, as the Angel; and a subordinate part was filled by a gentlemen amateur; with the addition of some of the choristers of the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The instrumental band consisted of the Opera and Philharmonic

bands, numbering together forty-five performers. We understand that Sir H. Bishop was prevented from attending by indisposition. The performance was decidedly successful, and deservedly so. The Theatre has seldom been so densely packed with an educated and intelligent assembly of both sexes. The spacious interior was literally crammed to repletion. The company included the Vice-Chancellor, with the majority of the Heads of Colleges, and others of official position in the University, with their families, besides many other resident and non-resident members of Convocation."

Public Debts, Intelligence, or Occurrences.

Published on the 1st and 15th of every Month.

WINDSOR, Dec. 28.

The dinner party yesterday included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Lady in Waiting to her Royal Highness, Baroness de Spaeth, Baron and Baroness d'Udedom, the Earl of Clarendon, Viscount Canning, Sir James Graham, and Major-General the Hon. C. and Mrs. Grey.

The Queen and Prince walked in the Castle gardens and slopes this morning. The Royal Children took their accustomed exercise. Baron d'Udedom was presented to Her Majesty yesterday afternoon, at an audience, by the Earl of Clarendon.

Despatches from the Governors of Hongkong, Ceylon, and the Mauritius were received yesterday at the Colonial office.

VIENNA, Dec. 28.

Conferences of a positive character, at which M. Gortschakoff and Count Armin will be present, take place to-day.

The Earl of Westmorland being still indisposed, the discussion will take place in his apartments.

Up to the 18th the number of English and French reinforcements to the armies in the Crimea amounted to 18,000 men.

The Duke of Cambridge was better.

The Turkish army at Kars was hard pressed by the Russians.

A PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, Mus. Doc., and Organist of one of the principal London Churches, is desirous of receiving into his family a resident or articulated Pupil. Apply, by letter (post paid), to A. Z., care of Messrs. Ewer and Co., 390, Oxford-street, London.

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MUSICAL DIRECTORY AND ALMANACK.—

Price 1s. 6d.; by post, 2s.

CONTENTS:

1. An Almanack, with musical data.
2. A list of Musical Societies throughout the Kingdom.
3. The Musical doings of the past year.
4. Complete List of Music published throughout the Kingdom between 1st of January and 31st December, 1854.—those Works intended to be published in the coming month of December being included.
5. Names of Professors, Music-sellers, and Musical Instrument Manufacturers, throughout the Kingdom, with their Addresses, &c.

The work will be ready in a few days. Rudall, Rose, Carte, and Co., 100, New Bond-street.